

Dr. Franklin Bache, the President, gave notice that at the next meeting he should deliver an address on the affairs of the Society.

Mr. Lea read an extract of a letter from Dr. R. W. Gibbes, of Columbia, S. C. in relation to an original letter from Thomas Penn to Sir William Johnston, dated February 18, 1768, which letter was presented to the Society.

The Treasurer presented his Annual Report, which was read and referred to the Committee of Finance.

The Committee of Publication presented their Annual Report, which was read.

The Society proceeded to vote upon the proposed amendment to its Laws, read at last meeting, to wit: Add to Chap. VII. of the Laws, as Article 7, the following: "The ex-Presidents of the Society shall be members of the Board of Officers and Council:" which was adopted by a vote of more than three-fourths of the qualified members present.

Stated Meeting, December 16.

Present, twenty-eight members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Horticultural Society, London, dated Regent street, 18th October, 1853; from the Linnean Society, dated Soho square, London, Nov. 8, 1853; from the Society of Antiquaries, dated Somerset House, London, 18th Nov. 1853; from the Royal Asiatic Society, dated London, 19th Nov. 1853,—severally acknowledging the receipt of the Transactions of this Society, Vol. X. Part 2, and of No. 48 of the Proceedings:—

From the Corporation of Harvard College, dated Cambridge, Nov. 2, 1853, acknowledging the receipt of No. 49 of the Proceedings:—

From his Excellency John F. Crampton, her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Washington, dated December 14, 1853, announcing a donation, on the part of the British Government, for the Library of the Society: and—

From the Hon. John K. Kane, accompanying a donation from his son Dr. E. K. Kane, of his Narrative of the Grinnell Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- Verhandelingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen. Deel XXIII. Batavia, 1850. 4to.—*From the Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences, Java.*
- The African Repository. Vol. XXIX. No. 11. Nov. 1853. Washington. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XXVI. No. 6. Dec. 1853. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*
- The U. S. Grinnell Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin: A Personal Narrative. By Elisha Kent Kane, M.D. U. S. N. New York, 1853. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Letters on International Copyright. By H. C. Carey. Philadelphia, 1853. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- The Astronomical Journal. Vol. III. No. 18. Dec. 8, 1853. Cambridge. 4to.—*From Dr. B. A. Gould, jr. Editor.*
- The Medical Examiner. New Series. Vol. IX. No. 12. Dec. 1853. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Drs. Smith & Biddle, Editors.*
- The Medical News and Library. Vol. XI. No. 132. Dec. 1853. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*
- The Plough, the Loom and the Anvil. Vol. VI. No. 6. Dec. 1853. New York. 8vo.—*From the Editors.*

The Committee of Finance reported that they had examined the accounts of the Treasurer, and found them correct. The following Appropriations, recommended by the Committee for the current fiscal year, were ordered to be made:

For Publications, including Proceedings,	\$400
For Journals, - - - -	50
For Hall, - - - -	50
For Binding, - - - -	50
For General Account, - - - -	1100

A discourse was then delivered by Dr. Franklin Bache, the President, on the affairs of the Society.

The discourse commenced with remarks upon the importance of association in promoting the progress of literary and scientific knowledge. In monarchical countries, the spirit of scientific association is sustained by the patronage of government, and frequently by pecuniary aid. In our country this spirit is left to its own resources, generally without any extrinsic support. This condition of things, and the comparative youth of our country, may be assigned as reasons why we have not rivalled European States in the higher and more abstruse branches of science; but have given to our labours rather a practical and useful tendency, as shown by our progress in agriculture and the mechanic arts.

The President then proceeded to show that scientific associations, especially in free States, should be organized on liberal principles, and that the requiring of too high a grade of attainment in candidates for membership, and rules or usages too exclusive, tend to defeat the main objects of association, the increase and diffusion of knowledge. He alluded to the early condition of this Society, and to the advantages which might result from an increased number of members, diffused more generally throughout the various States of the Union.

The proceedings of the Society, and the operations of its laws, for the last half century, were next reviewed, and some suggestions made in reference to the mode of electing members. This was followed by a recapitulation of the obituary notices of deceased members, directed to be prepared, and of those actually prepared and read to the Society,—with suggestions concerning the printing of the latter.

He recommended the adoption of measures for securing increased space and better arrangement of the library and cabinet of the Society, and suggested an alteration of the Hall for that purpose.

The Magellanic premium, which the Society has the power of awarding for useful discoveries and inventions, was next adverted to, and a wish expressed that an additional publicity should be given to the conditions of these premiums.

The continuation of the binding in volumes of the records and documents belonging to the Society, was urged by the President, who closed his discourse by dwelling at some length on its financial affairs.